

Poverty Reduction Strategies and Update

September 15, 2015

History of Poverty Commission Work

- 34 members of the community from various industries and sectors
- One year process
- Four Workgroups: Research and data analysis
- Community Meetings with over 200 residents
- Delivered recommendations to City Council July, 2014

Vision

Individuals in the City of Norfolk have the opportunity to develop their skills and earn a wage that allows them to thrive, to sustain their families, and to have access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, child care, and healthcare.

Four Critical Areas of Focus

Early
Childhood
Education

Youth Career
Pathways

Adult
Workforce
Development

Neighborhood
Revitalization

Funded Initiatives

Early Childhood Development:

- Newborn Screening and Referral Program
- Quality improvement initiatives for childcare providers focused on improving outcomes for kids

Youth Education and Career Pathways:

- United for Children Summer Enrichment Program Expansion
- Open Campus High School

Workforce Development:

- Libraries as Workforce Development Centers

Neighborhood Revitalization and Support:

- Commercial Corridor Neighborhood Grant Program

Planned Funding for FY16

Early Childhood Development:

- Investment in home-visiting services to strengthen early intervention and support the expansion of the newborn screening and referral program
- Continued investment in Early Childhood Development programs

Youth Education and Career Pathways:

- Expansion of United For Children

Workforce Development:

- Development of an Employment Pipeline that connects residents with available Norfolk jobs

Neighborhood Revitalization and Support:

- Comprehensive housing study
- Implementation of a program to raise the quality of rental units in the City
- Development of a Housing Trust Fund
- New Programs: Bank On Norfolk; Lunch and Learns for City Staff

Comprehensive Approach to Poverty Reduction

- Cross sector participation
- Comprehensive solutions
- Strong resident engagement
- Innovative financing